# FY 2014 Integrated Operating Plan

## Southeast and Caribbean Regional Collaboration Team

## National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration

*North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands*

November 2013

# Contents

# I. Introduction

NOAA's strategic goals and objectives are aligned with the Department of Commerce (DOC) goals and objectives and with Administration priorities. Within this framework, regional collaboration seeks to improve NOAA's productivity and value to customers by articulating and acting on the broader NOAA goals and objectives in terms of priority regional needs and regional contributions.

## NOAA's Goals and Objectives

NOAA focuses its activities toward the following Strategic Goals and Enterprise Objectives articulated in the Next Generation Strategic Plan (NGSP):

- Climate Adaptation and Mitigation – An informed society anticipating and responding to climate and its impacts
- Weather-Ready Nation – Society is prepared for and responds to weather-related events
- Healthy Oceans – Vibrant marine fisheries, habitats, and biodiversity sustained within healthy and productive ecosystems
- Resilient Coastal Communities and Economies – Coastal and Great Lakes communities that are environmentally and economically sustainable
- NOAA's Science and Technology Enterprise
- NOAA's Engagement Enterprise
- NOAA's Organization and Administration Enterprise

## NOAA's FY14-19 Priorities

Each year the NOAA Administrator identifies, through an Annual Guidance Memorandum (AGM), the agency's annual priorities. In the context of NOAA's long-term strategy, the AGM establishes programmatic priorities that shape NOAA's execution focus for FY14-19. The AGM near-term execution imperatives focus on:

- Evolving NOAA's weather services to become more effective, efficient, and agile
- Cost-effectively sustaining NOAA's operational satellite capabilities
- Re-engineering a sustainable suite of NOAA's core infrastructure

Focus areas for planning are:

- Strengthening the production and delivery of climate information and services to inform the management of climate-related risks
- Improving ocean and coastal stewardship by focusing habitat efforts in priority areas and demonstrating landscape-scale results
- Advancing NOAA's data integration and services to support resilient coastal communities and economies
- Improving the methodologies to assess and manage fish stocks and protected resources
- Enhancing research and modeling to advance NOAA's mission

### Regional Team Priorities

Regional collaboration has particular responsibility for implementing the Engagement Enterprise Objective of the NOAA strategic plan…"Integrated Services Meeting the Evolving Demands of Regional Stakeholders." Evidence of progress toward meeting this objective includes:

- Stakeholder needs continually and adequately assessed for NOAA science, service and stewardship
- Integrated products and services tailored to the needs of NOAA's regional stakeholders and customers
- Organizational responsiveness to stakeholder needs through the evaluation of and adjustments to products and services
- Two-way communication with regional stakeholders, including regional governance initiatives, to build understanding, trust and partnerships
- A workforce operating with shared awareness and understanding of its cross-agency missions and capabilities

In FY14, SECART will utilize its work groups (sub-teams) to provide additional focus on NOAA goals and to engage a broader spectrum of NOAA and partner colleagues in the region. As NOAA addresses the National Ocean Policy priority objectives, SECART will provide regional context and coordination, as well as staff resources. SECART will continue to nurture regional partnerships (e.g. the Governors' South Atlantic Alliance) and utilize those partnerships to address agency priorities in the region.

## *Integrated Operating Plan Purpose and Organization*

### Purpose

The purpose of the Integrated Operating Plan (IOP) is to guide and document team activities during the fiscal year. Regional team IOPs form the basis to examine how well the agency is addressing Administration and regional priorities. IOPs also serve as a tool for communicating regionally-informed priorities. Regional team IOPs enable NOAA to be more effective by:

- Identifying regional areas for emphasis
- Uncovering and filling gaps across the line offices and implementing programs
- Aligning and leveraging NOAA capabilities with partners
- Measuring progress toward stated goals and objectives

### Organization

This IOP for FY2014 addresses national and regional priorities by utilizing an integrative, cross-line office approach, with an emphasis on enhancing coordination and communication within the region. The priority activities of SECART are organized according to the goals of NOAA's strategic plan. Each activity is related to strategic objectives within the long-term goal. Projects may address multiple long-term goals, but are organized within a single goal for the purposes of the IOP. Activity descriptions provide information about the purpose, scope, partners, and budget of the activity. Milestones are associated with deliverables or expected accomplishments.

Regional Collaboration funding from NOAA ($50K) has been allocated to enable SECART to address priorities. This funding for SECART work has been and will continue to be augmented and leveraged through other programs and funding opportunities.

# II. Team Activities

## Goal A: Climate Adaptation and Mitigation

*Low-lying coastal areas, population growth, valuable fisheries, and fragile coral reef systems are among the characteristics making this region vulnerable to impacts from climate change. Considerations for the region include sea level rise, coastal erosion, ocean acidification, elevated water temperatures, changes in precipitation, drought, and more frequent weather events such as storms and flooding. NOAA is enhancing its climate-related services in this region by working with stakeholders to meet their needs for credible information related to local- and region-specific impacts and adaptation strategies.*

### Activity A1. Southeast and Caribbean Climate Community of Practice

Joint project with Resilient Coastal Communities and Economies Workgroup.

**Strategic Objective(s):**

- Mitigation and adaptation efforts supported by sustained, reliable, and timely climate services
- A climate literate public that understands its vulnerabilities to a changing climate and makes informed decisions
- Resilient coastal communities that can adapt to the impacts of hazards and climate change

**SECART Contact(s):** Ellen Mecray, Ed Kearns, David Brown (NCDC), Rich Bandy (NWS), Bethney Ward (CSC), Chuck Hopkinson (GA SG), Geno Olmi (Coordinator)

**Project Summary:**

SECART and Sea Grant have provided funds and technical expertise in the past to build a Climate Community of Practice (CCoP) for extension specialists and coastal managers in the region. The purpose of the CCoP is to enhance the capacity of the community by sharing accurate and timely information, tools, interpretation, and assistance on climate issues. In FY13, SECART funds were used to engage the Carolinas Integrated Sciences and Assessment (CISA, at University of South Carolina) to help advance the CCoP. In response to a need identified at an earlier workshop, CISA surveyed the CCOP to determine climate information priorities and resources. From this input, CISA is currently developing a directory of climate information providers and practitioners in the SECART geography. The CCOP (likely thorugh CISA) will continue to enhance the resource directory. In addition, CISA is also helping to organize

webinars and similar informative meetings for the CCoP to help build communication among the members and share information on emerging climate science or services in the region.

The next steps for the CCoP are to build a governance structure and a framework in which the CCOP can grow and thrive. A committed group of individuals to organize, strategically evaluate and set direction for the CCoP must be assembled. Members from SECART, Sea Grant, CSC, and other NOAA offices and regional partners have contributed to the CCoP in the past, and may be able to contribute in leadership roles. In FY14, SECART will work with CISA to design and institute a sustainable leadership structure for the CCoP, such as a steering or executive committee. This will include identifying the purpose, requirements, process, and individuals (likely both internal and external to NOAA) for the leadership structure. Results from a recent survey (mentioned above) may also help inform the leadership structure. Other information, feedback, and data points should be considered as well. Once the leadership structure has been determined, CISA will work with SECART, and the climate and resilience sub-team members specifically, to convene the leadership and facilitate identifying future strategic direction of the CCoP.

**Project Objectives:**

- Establish sustainable leadership and strategic direction for the Climate CoP
- In partnership with CISA, continue to advance climate communication and adaptation in the region, including enhancement of the climate resource directory and webinars

**Why SECART?** SECART has already invested resources in the CCoP, but the sustainability of the CCoP is dependent on a more formalized leadership structure. As with many communities of practice, no single contributor is responsible for addressing this shortcoming. SECART can take the initiative to move a leadership conversation forward.

**Partners:** Carolinas Integrated Sciences and Assessment (CISA); Sea Grant, others TBD

**Key Milestones/Deliverables:**

- New leadership structure for the Climate CoP as codified in a CCoP charter (by Q2)
- Recommendations (from the new leadership) on direction for the Climate CoP (Q3)
- Enhanced Climate Resource Direcotry

**Project Activities:**

- Identify and build a sustainable leadership structure for the CoP
- Convene leadership, and using results of current survey and other intelligence, determine future direction and next steps for the CoP, including potential formal integration of hazard resilience into the CoP
- Enhance the Climate Resource Directory
- Plan and deliver climate related webinars

**Cost/Funding Source:** $5,000 ($3K to CISA for their assistance in designing the leadership structure, convening the leadership, and facilitating strategic direction-setting by the leadership; $2K for any travel by SECART members to convene as part of the leadership)

# Goal B: Weather-Ready Nation

*NOAA is helping regional decision-makers, residents and businesses prepare for and respond to high-impact weather events, including hurricanes, thunderstorms and tornadoes, snow and ice storms, drought, and flooding. Efforts focus on reducing impacts, improving water resources management, transportation efficiency and safety, and working with the health sector to identify linkages among human health, weather, water, and climate. In the Southeast, coasts are vulnerable to flooding from hurricanes, tropical storms and extra-tropical low pressure systems. Storm surge and related coastal flooding is often the greatest threat to life and property from a tropical cyclone. Much of the populous Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico coastlines lie less than 10 feet above mean sea level, and over half of the nation's economic productivity is located in coastal zones. Priorities influencing NOAA execution are improving readiness and resiliency from tropical storms along the Southeast coast and Caribbean.*

## *Activity B-1: Advise and support the NWS Tampa Weather-Ready Nation pilot project on integrated environmental services*

**Strategic Objective:**

- Interfacing with the NWS Pilot Project to Integrated Environmental Services in collaboration with a diverse set of multi-agency partners and impact-based decision makers.
- Reduced loss of life, property, and disruption from high-impact events

**Contact:** Brian LaMarre, NWS (brian.lamarre@noaa.gov)

**Project Summary:** The NWS has established six pilot projects to develop and prototype concepts laid out in the NWS Weather-Ready Nation Roadmap. These projects are designed to enhance the agency's community presence in targeted locations. The projects will also emphasize the role of communities to better prepare the American public for environmental events.

The Tampa Bay Area Weather Forecast Office has been chosen to serve as a test program focused on integrating environmental services. The program will test an expanded internal NOAA focus on ecosystems and enable collaboration with external Federal and local partners. Enhanced collaboration will enable exploration of prototyping efforts with existing agencies and evolving partners.

The project is expected to expand current services. Such services could include multi-agency, collaborative public health forecasts, air quality forecasts, and services to support renewable energy sources. Enhanced coastal forecasts could support defined navigation routes and marine points of interest, and ecosystem forecasts could provide information on water temperature, salinity, currents and red tide. Hydrologic runoff forecasts could help mitigate the development and transport of harmful algal blooms.

**Project Objectives:**

- Serve as advisors to the pilot project through participation on internal review panels for the following pilot objectives:
    - Establish a marine route forecasting service for port systems in the Tampa Bay Area.
    - Improve local provision of storm surge warning information.
    - Define an impacts catalog for core partner decisions in ecological and environmental incident response and public health matters.
    - Implement evolution of operations within the Tampa WFO to place greater focus and human resources on high resolution short term gridded forecasts and expansion of IDSS products and services with greater automation of long term forecast periods.
- Demonstrate capabilities of NOAA to test the effectiveness of integrated environmental support services to critical decision-makers and other partners and stakeholders
- Expand knowledge and enhance coordination of the pilot project in the region
- Facilitate the sharing of best practices from the pilot concept in the region

**Cost/Funding Source:** $1000 from SECART. Travel by a SECART representative to a meeting or workshop on the subject of the test program in the Tampa area would be beneficial if a meeting or workshop is held.

**Why SECART?** The existing capacity of SECART to effectively engage NOAA personnel and its partners throughout the region provides an excellent mechanism to enhance ecological forecasts in the region.

**Partners:**

- NOAA and other Federal agencies:
    - NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service
    - NOAA National Ocean Service
    - NOAA Office of Marine and Aviation Operations, Aircraft Operations Center
    - NOAA Office of Response and Restoration
    - NOAA Coastal Services Center
    - NOAA Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research
    - Other NWS Forecast Offices, River Forecast Centers, National Centers, and Operations Centers
    - United States Geological Survey Coastal and Marine Science Center
- State and Local
    - Florida Fish and Wildlife
    - Florida Division of Forestry
    - Florida Department of Health
    - Florida Department of Agriculture
    - Florida Department of Environmental Prediction
    - Tampa Bay and other local Estuary Programs
    - Tampa Storm Water and Drain
    - Mote Marine Laboratory
    - Tampa Port Authority

- Academia
    - University of South Florida
    - University of Central Florida
    - Florida State Ecology
- Others to be determined

**Key Milestones/ Deliverables:**

- Engagement in, various Pilot Project Internal Review Panels (Q1-Q4)
- Monitor progress and report to SECART (FY14)

**Project Activities:**

- Monitor Pilot Project development and progress
- Engage the Pilot Project Internal Review Panel for coordination and activities
- Coordinate with the Pilot Project Manager to share best practices with NOAA in the Southeast and Caribbean

## Activity B-2: Enhance decision support for coastal hazards from tropical cyclones

**Strategic Objective:**

- Provide direct interpretive support to public sector officials and emergency responders, and expand the environmental education and weather safety programs.

**Contact:** Steve Naglic, NWS (steve.naglic@noaa.gov)
Daniel Brown, NWS (daniel.p.brown@noaa.gov)

**Project Summary:** On the heels of the North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM)/East Carolina University (ECU)/NOAA Hurricane Workshop, held in Greenville, NC in May of 2011, SECART's Weather-Ready Nation sub-team organized a series of webinars in the spring of 2012 to get customers and partners better prepared for the Atlantic hurricane season. These webinars included: 1) Impacts of storm surge, storm tide, and available tools to help assess them; 2) Local factors that impact storm tide (e.g., channels, estuaries, barrier islands, cuts, etc.); and, 3) Impact of wind and available tools to help in assessment. Webinars continued in 2013 with a focus on tools to help customers and partners be better prepared for freshwater flooding from tropical cyclones, and to get the latest information on tropical forecasting tools and technologies from the National Hurricane Center.

Each of the webinars was well attended as the coastal NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologists (WCM) spread the word in each of their forecast areas. Feedback from all the presentations has been very positive. Therefore, SECART's Weather-Ready Nation sub-team will provide one webinar in the spring of 2014, focusing on the most popular webinar, the latest information on tropical forecasting tools and technologies from the National Hurricane Center.

**Project Objectives:**

- Expand knowledge of critical tropical cyclone information for decision support.

- Enhance coordination among NOAA and its key partners in the region.

**Cost/Funding Source:** $0. Leveraging the time of staff from the National Hurricane Center and NWS offices in the Southeast.

**Why SECART?** The existing capacity of the Southeast and Caribbean Regional Team (SECART) to effectively engage NOAA personnel and its partners throughout the region provides an excellent mechanism to coordinate aspects of decision-support education in the region.

**Partners:**
- NWS offices serving the Southeast and Caribbean
- The National Hurricane Center
- State and local emergency response representatives serving the Southeast and Caribbean

**Key Milestones/Deliverables:**
- Engage support for the annual webinar (Q2)
- Host the webinar (Q3)

**Project Activities:**
- Host webinar

## Activity B-3: Improving Inundation Forecasts through Post-Storm Assessments

**Strategic Objectives:**
- Increasing community capacity to prepare for and respond to hazardous events.
- Supporting hazard-related planning and recovery activities.
- Helping to integrate water level information across agencies to increase the accuracy and timeliness of water level information and associated uncertainties.
- Directly responsive to NOAA's Storm Surge Roadmap.

**Contacts:** Richard Bandy, NWS (richard.bandy@noaa.gov)
Darin Figurskey, NWS (darin.figurskey@noaa.gov)
Chuck Hopkinson, Georgia Sea Grant (chopkins@uga.edu)
Geno Olmi, SECART (geno.olmi@noaa.gov)
David Newcomer, NGS (david.newcomer@noaa.gov)

**Project Summary:** This effort, continued from FY13, follows a prototype developed by Louisiana Sea Grant where Sea Grant agents and other trained individuals go out immediately to locate and document good storm surge indicators following a tropical or extratropical cyclone. The indicators are carefully marked so that even if the indicator is removed through clean-up activities, agents can return days or weeks later with sophisticated GPS equipment to take a very accurate reading of the actual elevation. SECART has developed a first version of a standard

operating plan for this purpose. Development of such a plan and utilizing it within Sea Grant, NWS, and other networks could dramatically expand the potential for gathering accurate post-storm data on actual surge levels.

The project already has brought together people in the storm surge modeling, measuring, and forecasting communities in the Southeast and Caribbean region to identify needs, opportunities, and constraints for providing inundation information. An initial workshop was held in Brunswick, GA September 23 and 24, 2013 to discuss, and prepare to implement, the standard methodology for identifying and marking high water marks following a storm. The workshop also outlined a recommended, collaborative effort to coordinate efforts to gather post storm data, compile and quality control it, and eventually post it at a central location. Other workshops are planned in the Southeast in FY14, and completion of these workshops will be the FY14 focus.

**Project Objectives:**

- Develop working agreements for improved collaboration and coordination for quickly obtaining accurate inundation measurements and impacts following coastal inundation events.
- Expand knowledge of inundation for decision support, and for better communication of potential impacts from storms.
- Enhance coordination among NOAA and its key partners in the region.

**Cost/Funding Source:** Original amount from FY13 $25,000. The original funding source is the Georgia Sea Grant – NOAA Regional Team Collaboration Grant, Federal Funding Opportunity number NOAA-OAR-SG-2012-2003367. Leveraging the time of staff from the National Hurricane Center, NWS offices in the Southeast, the NOAA Storm Surge Unit, NOAA Sea Grant, and the Coastal Services Center, along with partners such as the USGS, FEMA, USACE, and state and local agencies. $13,000 was anticipated in travel cost sharing over the life of the grant.

An estimated $4000 was used in FY13 for NOAA travel. An estimated $8000 is anticipated for two to three regional workshops in FY14. These workshops would most likely be held in the Carolinas (1) and in Florida (1-2). GA Sea Grant will provide funding to offset NOAA travel related to the workshops which will be paid from SECART funds.

**Why SECART?** The existing capacity of the Southeast and Caribbean Regional Team (SECART) to effectively engage NOAA personnel and its partners throughout the region provides an excellent mechanism to coordinate, network, inform and engage the public and partners with regard to improving understanding of and forecasting for inundation.

**Partners:**

- NWS offices serving the Southeast and Caribbean
- The National Hurricane Center
- NOAA Sea Grant
- Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorology (OFCM) Working Group for Disaster Impacts and Plans
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

- U.S. Geological Survey
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- State and local emergency management

**Key Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Host workshops and refine materials (Q1 - 4)

**Project Activities:**

- Engage partners
- Host workshops
- Produce workshop reports
- Refine materials
- Develop any working agreements

## Activity B-4: Extend Existing Water Level Forecasts Into Tidal/Surge Zones of Alafia River (Tampa Bay Region of Florida)

**Strategic Objective:**

- Providing operational water level forecasts and potentially inundation maps to downstream reach of Alafia River requiring hydrodynamic modeling that couples tidal and surge effects to traditional River Forecast Center (RFC) hydrologic models.

**Contact:** John Schmidt, NWS (john.schmidt@noaa.gov)

**Project Summary:**

Historically, SERFC has only modeled rivers using hydrologic routing techniques. This prohibited the extension of river level forecast models into areas of very flat slope and areas affected by tidal and storm surge effects. Much of the coastal plain of the southeast United States and Florida falls into that category. This area is coincident to where great concentrations of population live near water bodies. With the recent implementation of the Community Hydrologic Prediction System (CHPS) at NWS RFCs, the USACE's HEC-RAS hydrodynamic modeling system can be integrated quite seamlessly into operational modeling and forecast systems at SERFC. SERFC's existing hydrologic model would be used to produce upstream boundary condition simulations and lateral inflow simulations to existing HEC-RAS models collected from external sources. Downstream boundary conditions will consist of a variety of observed and modeled water surface data from offices such as NOAA's National Ocean Service and Office of Coast Survey, and the National Weather Service's National Hurricane Center and Meteorological Development Laboratory, to incorporate the effects of storm surge in both a deterministic and ensemble mode.

The introduction of hydrodynamic modeling is also necessary for the construction of real-time inundation mapping services that would complement existing Coastal Services Center coastal inundation mapping efforts. Coordination of enhanced water level forecast products and water surface inundation visualizations between this effort and existing coastal modeling and

inundation projects, such as those available from NOAA's Coastal Services Center, will be vital to this project's success in service.

**Project Objectives:**

- Complete incorporation of externally-produced, stand-alone HEC-RAS model of the Alafia River into SE RFC operational modeling and forecasting environment (CHPS).
- Train SERFC staff on operational use of HEC-RAS models for the purposes of traditional, point-specific water level time series forecasts.
- Establish additional river forecast service locations as needed and possible with new modeling.
- Prototype real-time, inundation maps based on extended modeling capability.
- Identify most useful inundation information and decision support products through coordination with NOAA's Coastal Services Center or partner/public input.

**Cost/Funding Source:** $1000 from SECART funds for travel by a SERFC representative to Tampa Bay region, in coordination with NWS WFO-Ruskin, FL, to hold meetings with local government entities and user groups to identify enhanced water level forecast services. (FY14)

**Why SECART?** The existing capacity of the Southeast and Caribbean Regional Team (SECART) can be leveraged to engage NOAA personnel and its partners throughout the region, and help to integrate water information across agencies, to increase the accuracy and timeliness of water information and associated uncertainties.

**Partners:**

- NOAA agencies including:
    - NOAA Coastal Services Center
    - NOAA Office of Coast Survey
    - NOAA National Ocean Service
    - NWS WFO Ruskin, FL
    - NWS SERFC
    - NWS OHD
    - NWS NHC
- USACE
- Florida state, county, and/or local governments

**Key FY14 Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Complete incorporation of acquired and modified Alafia River HEC-RAS model into SERFC real-time operations in parallel with existing modeling techniques. (Q1)
- Establish additional river forecast service locations on Alafia River downstream of current Lithia gage. (Q2)
- Generate prototype real-time, dynamic inundation maps for reach of Alafia River below Lithia gage to mouth of river. (Q3-Q4)

**Project Activities:**

- As needed, calibrate and/or modify Alafia River hydrodynamic model and incorporate into SERFC operations
- Establish additional river forecast sites
- Educate customers and partners and obtain feedback

## Activity B-5: Provide an "in-house" operational hydrologic model for the Weather Forecast Office (WFO) San Juan, Puerto Rico to support the flash flood forecasting needs for the small flashy basins of the Caribbean Islands of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

**Strategic Objective:**

- Developing a distributed hydrologic operational model and threshold frequency-based method for flash flood forecasting for WFO San Juan's (SJU) Hydrologic Service Area (HSA) which includes the islands of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

**Contact:** Roberto Garcia, NWS (roberto.garcia@noaa.gov)

Currently the hydrologic operations at WFO SJU are composed of a forecast guidance product issued from the Southeast River Forecast Center (SERFC) two times a day for 13 gauge sites in Puerto Rico, using a tool known as the Site Specific Hydrologic Predictor. Site Specific is an application that provides stream flow forecasts in 1-hour time steps for the same 13 gauged sites in Puerto Rico. No forecasts or guidance are available for the U.S. Virgin Islands. The opportunity to develop and implement a distributed hydrologic model and threshold frequency-based (RDHM-TF) method would improve flash flood forecasts at gauged and ungauged locations, as proven at WFO Honolulu for Kauai, Hawaii. A High Resolution Precipitation Estimator/Nowcaster (HPE/HPN) will be needed to provide a high temporal/spatial resolution forcing precipitation dataset to drive the RDHM-TF model.

An operational RDHM-TF would provide a method to make hydrologic calculations at spatial and temporal scales that would allow forecasters to quickly characterize flash flood severity in order to support the National Weather Service's critical mission of saving life and property throughout their territories in the Caribbean Basin. At least 35 deaths were directly associated with flash floods from 2003 to 2012. An operational RDHM-TF would likely contribute to reduce this number significantly. The development of this operational RDHM-TF requires strengthening our partnerships with the hydrologic research community and other water management agencies as we establish better hydrologic science across the region in order to improve decision support services.

**Project Objectives (FY14):**

- Acquire required datasets and complete implementation of RDHM-TF for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

- Train WFO San Juan staff on the operational use of High Resolution Multisensor Precipitation Estimator /Nowcaster (HPE/HPN) required for RDHM-TF implementation.
- Train WFO San Juan staff on operational use NWS-OHD's Research Distributed Hydrologic Model – Threshold Frequency (RDHM-TF) model for the purposes of issuing watches and warnings for the San Juan HSA.

**Project Objectives (FY15):**

- Train SERFC staff on operational use WFO San Juan's NWS-OHD's Research Distributed Hydrologic Model (RDHM) model for the purposes providing support and redundancy for their Service Area.

**Cost/Funding Source (FY14):** 0$ allotted in FY14 SECART Budget for support. Should funding become available from SECART, $1300 would be needed for travel for WFO San Juan representative to SERFC for model development and training. $1500 for travel of NWS representative either from NWS Headquarters to WFO San Juan to train the San Juan staff, or for an NWS representative from WFO San Juan to NWS Headquarters to receive "train-the-trainer" training on behalf of the San Juan Staff on operational use of High Resolution Multisensor Precipitation Estimator /Nowcaster (HPE/HPN).

**Cost/Funding Source (FY15):** Request in FY15 for reconsideration to cover potential cost expenditures mentioned above if not carried out. An additional $1300 would be requested for travel for SERFC representative to WFO San Juan in Puerto Rico for staff training.

**Why SECART?** After experimenting with different ways to support operations for the flash flood forecasting for the Caribbean Islands of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, it has become clear that the development of local models and tools would be much more efficient if NWS SJU could incorporate the effort of numerous resources within NOAA and other Federal and local agencies. The Southeast and Caribbean Regional Team (SECART) provides the avenue to effectively utilize the expertise and services of NOAA personnel and its partners within this region, while also giving validity to the importance of addressing the unique challenges of improving lifesaving hydrologic support and forecasts for United States territories in the Caribbean Basin.

**Partners:**

- NOAA agencies including:
  - NOAA Coastal Services Center
  - NOAA National Ocean Service
  - NWS WFO San Juan, PR
  - NWS SERFC
  - NWS Office of Hydrologic Development (OHD)
- USACE, Jacksonville, FL (PR)
- Puerto Rico local government
- U.S. Virgin Islands local governments
- USGS Caribbean Water Science Center, PR
- University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez Campus, Atmospheric Science Department

- University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus, Environmental Science Department

**Key Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Construct RDHM a priori parameter grids from OHD Grass scripts and available, non-standard land use/land cover and soils data sets.
- Install and train SJU staff on High Resolution Multisensor Precipitation Estimator /Nowcaster (HPE/HPN)
- Install and train SERFC and SJU staff on NWS-OHD's Research Distributed Hydrologic Model – Threshold Frequency (RDHM-TF)

**Project Activities:**

- Acquire available soils/land-use data and convert to required CONUS RDHM equivalents.
- Obtain appropriate duration of quality controlled historical hourly rain gage data for input to the RDHM-TF.
- Organize resources to acquire appropriate duration of historical hourly grids (as available or producible). This activity may require a bias-adjustment exercise to tie historical gage-only analysis to operational HPE/HPN output.
- Organize SERFC/OHD training sessions for WFO meteorologist staff.
- Assist WFO staff with understanding the importance of the development of locally derived Threshold Frequency.
- Produce Documentation/Users Guide for WFO SJU operational staff.

## Activity B-6: Improving Access to Hydrometeorological Information in the Caribbean

**Strategic Objectives:**

- Reduced loss of life, property, and disruption from high-impact events
- Improved scientific understanding of the changing climate system and its impacts
- Assessments of current and future states of the climate system that identify potential impacts and inform science, service, and stewardship decisions
- Helping to integrate water level information across agencies to increase the accuracy and timeliness of water level information and associated uncertainties.

**Contact:** Roberto Garcia, NWS (roberto.garcia@noaa.gov)
David Brown (David.P.Brown@noaa.gov)
Victor Murphy (victor.murphy@noaa.gov)

**Project Summary:** There is a coarse network of hydrometeorological observations in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The limited number of such observations reduces NOAA's ability to predict and warn for weather, water, and all-hazards events in the region. In addition, the lack of observations impacts knowledge of the climate in part of the Caribbean. This project will have a goal of increased availability of hydrometeorological observations through

establishment and promotion of a Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow (CoCoRaHS) network in Puerto Rico.

From the CoCoRaHS web site, cocorahs.org, "CoCoRaHS is a unique, non-profit, community-based network of volunteers of all ages and backgrounds working together to measure and map precipitation (rain, hail and snow). By using low-cost measurement tools, stressing training and education, and utilizing an interactive Web-site, our aim is to provide the highest quality data for natural resource, education and research applications." CoCoRaHS observations are present in all fifty states, and the data from the observations are used in a number of ways.

Made available to NWS forecasters, near real-time significant weather reports from CoCoRaHS can help forecasters issue severe weather or flash flood warnings, or provide details to emergency services personnel and the public on the nature of significant weather or flooding. CoCoRaHS data can be incorporated into daily, monthly, and seasonal climatological information including precipitation summaries and the U.S. Drought Monitor. Hydrologists from NWS River Forecast Centers can use CoCoRaHS data to help improve the accuracy of streamflow and river flood forecasts. National sponsors of CoCoRaHS include NOAA, the Cooperative Institute for Research in the Atmosphere (CIRA), the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the U.S. Department of the Interior, among others.

**Project Objectives:**

- Develop collaboration and coordination for implementation of a CoCoRaHS network in Puerto Rico.
- Enhance coordination among NOAA and its key partners in the region.

**Cost/Funding Source:** $1000 from SECART. The funding will be used to purchase approximately 30 rain gauges for distribution to volunteers in Puerto Rico to build the foundation for the CoCoRaHS network. This project will also leverage the time of staff from the NWS office in San Juan, Atmos Carib Research Center at the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez, the NWS Southern Region Headquarters, and Colorado State University.

**Why SECART?** The capacity of SECART can be leveraged to engage NOAA personnel and its partners throughout the region, and help to establish a finer network of hydrometeorological data to increase the accuracy and timeliness of weather, water, and climate information in the Caribbean.

**Partners:**

- NWS San Juan
- NWS Southern Region Headquarters
- University of Puerto Rico - Mayaguez
- Colorado State University

**Key Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Institute partner collaboration (Q1)
- Obtain a volunteer CoCoRaHS regional coordinator (Q1)
- Acquire gauges (Q2)

- Conduct volunteer outreach and training (Q2)
- Activate CoCoRaHS (Q2)
- Provide gauges to volunteers, obtain data, and expand the network (Q4)

**Project Activities:**

- Engage partners
- Solicit network coordination
- Activate the network
- Market and expand the network

# Goal C: Healthy Oceans

*Coastal and marine habitats in the Southeast and Caribbean region are threatened by land use changes, increased demands on water, non-point source pollution, fishing pressures, and invasive species. NOAA is working with local agencies, communities, and researchers to better understand ecosystem processes (including human elements) and develop protection and management strategies that promote ecosystem sustainability, food security, recreational opportunities, and livelihoods.*

## Activity C-1. Regional Priorities for the NOAA Habitat Blueprint

**Strategic Objectives:**

- Healthy habitats that sustain resilient and thriving marine resources and communities
- Improved understanding of ecosystems to inform resource management decisions

**SECART Contacts:**

- Aleta Hohn, NMFS (Aleta.Hohn@noaa.gov)
- Geno Olmi (geno.olmi@noaa.gov)

**Project Summary:** The NOAA Habitat Blueprint provides a framework for NOAA to act strategically across programs and with partner organizations to address the growing challenge of coastal and marine habitat loss and degradation. Establishing focus areas for long-term habitat science and conservation is one prong of the Blueprint. During FY13, NOAA's regional teams commenced coordinating meetings of NOAA offices and partners to identify spatial intersections where collaboration among NOAA management and science programs and external partners would address multiple habitat-dependent objectives. Focal habitats and locations are expected to consider federally managed fish species, protected species, at-risk areas, resilient coastal communities, and societal uses, such as recreation and tourism.

**Project Objectives:**

- Utilize the Focus Area Selection Team to reach consensus on Habitat Blueprint priorities for the Southeast and Caribbean region.
- Vet priorities with NOAA partners in the region

**Cost/Funding Source:** $3,000 for costs associated with convening the Focus Area Selection Team; in-kind support of coordinator and team members (5 of whom sit on the FAST).

**Why SECART?** Collectively, SECART members work daily with resource managers from all levels of government throughout the region to integrate federal and state management programs and research efforts. This high frequency of communication coupled with the technical expertise of NOAA and its partners makes SECART ideally suited to orchestrate efficiently the meetings needed develop a consensus on the focal habitats and locations.

**Partners:** To be determined based on direction received from NOAA HQ. Expected partners include the South Atlantic Alliance Technical Teams, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Habitat Committee, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Coral and Habitat Advisory Panels, U.S. F&WS Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership, Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership, and all NOAA Line Offices.

**Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Participation, as needed, in meetings of NOAA and external partners to identify opportunities for collaboration that will address multiple habitat-dependent objectives
- Convene (at least) the initial call of the FAST

**Project Activities:**

- SECART will initiate the process for development of the NOAA Habitat Blueprint for the Southeast and Caribbean region by convening the Focus Area Selection Team (for at least the initial meeting).
- SECART will continue to support the Habitat Blueprint process through FY14, including by "hosting" a meeting of the FAST.
- Provide support for NOAA/partner meetings
- Inventory NOAA habitat activities
- Maintain coordination with the NOAA Habitat Blueprint Team (via liaisons)

## Activity C-2. North Carolina Sentinel Site Cooperative – Sea-Level Rise Research and Monitoring Coordination Workshop

**Strategic Objectives:**

- Improved understanding of ecosystems to inform resource management decisions
- Integrated products and services tailored to the needs of NOAA's regional stakeholders and customers;
- Organizational responsiveness to stakeholder needs through the evaluation of and adjustments to products and services;
- Two-way communication with regional stakeholders, including regional governance initiatives, to build understanding, trust and partnerships;

**SECART Contacts:**

- Aleta Hohn, NMFS (Aleta.Hohn@noaa.gov)

**Project Summary:** The North Carolina Sentinel Site Cooperative (NCSSC) utilizes existing assets and programs to better leverage resources across NOAA and its partners to increase efficiencies, integrate multiple parallel efforts, and provide information and tools to help communities and resource managers adapt to sea-level change and inundation. In March 2013, SECART funded the NCSSC's Sea-Level Rise Research and Monitoring Coordination workshop where gaps in research and monitoring were prioritized by participants. The "development of a central clearinghouse for Cooperative data" was the second highest priority. The highest priority, the "need for more water level measures," is currently being address by the NCSSC's Water Level Subcommittee. Thus, funding this proposal will help continue to move the NCSSC forward and build upon the previously funded Coordination workshop.
The NCSSC seeks funding to hire a contractor to determine the feasibility of creating a clearinghouse for research projects conducted within the boundaries of the NCSSC. Through a partnership with the North Carolina Coastal Atlas (www.nccoastalatlas.org), the clearinghouse will take shape with these additional resources. N.C. Coastal Atlas staff are enthusiastic about this partnership, as it falls in their mission of providing services to partners. Using this existing entity will avoid duplication and increase this project's efficiency, since the N.C. Coastal Atlas is an existing clearinghouse-type product. This will also provide a stable home for the NCSSC clearinghouse as the N.C. Coastal Atlas has already had a significant amount of resources dedicated to it as well as an agreement with the East Carolina University Library for long-term maintenance.

**Project Objectives:**
The NCSSC seeks to determine the feasibility of creating a clearinghouse for research projects conducted within the boundaries of the NCSSC. Through a partnership with the North Carolina Coastal Atlas (www.nccoastalatlas.org), we will avoid duplication and increase this project's efficiency, since the N.C. Coastal Atlas is an existing clearinghouse-type product. This will also provide a stable home for the NCSSC clearinghouse as the N.C. Coastal Atlas has already had a significant amount of resources dedicated to it as well as an agreement with the East Carolina University Library for long-term maintenance.

**Why SECART?** The Sentinel Site Program falls under the NOAA Habitat Blueprint. SECART is taking the lead for facilitating implementation of the Blueprint for the SECART region. The NC Sentinel Site is the only Sentinel Site within the SECART region.

**Partners:** Primary partners – NOAA, NERRS, NC Division of Coastal Management, NC Coastal Atlas.

**Key Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Report on results of interviews (Q2)
- Conduct pilot project for inputting projects into the NC Coastal Atlas (Q3)
- Develop recommendations for updating NC Coastal Atlas (Q3)

**Project Activities:**

- Develop interview questions in coordination with NCSSC Core Management Team and N.C. Coastal Atlas staff
- Determine researchers to interview, set up interview schedule, conduct interviews (~ 25 interviews)
- Interview summary report
- Work with N.C. Coastal Atlas staff to create clearinghouse
- Conduct pilot project of inputting projects into the N.C. Coastal Atlas
- Develop and prioritize next projects for N.C. Coastal Atlas and develop long-term plan to maintain and promote clearinghouse

**Cost/Funding Source:** This project was funded with FY13 funds ($10,100) from SECART. In kind support includes NERRS ($1000 in office space and supplies), NC SSC staff support (NERRS, NOAA, NC Div of Coastal Management, $6,000), and NC Coastal Atlas staff support ($6,000).

# Goal D. Resilient Coastal Communities and Economies (RCCE)

*With increasing demands on resources, communities must balance environmental and economic considerations. NOAA is working with stakeholders to increase community resilience and productivity in the region through coastal and ocean planning, improved water quality, port and marine transportation resilience, and reduction of impacts from hazards and climate change.*

## Activity A-1. Climate Community of Practice (joint project, see Climate Adaptation and Mitigation)

## Activity D-2. Track, Support and Advance Resilience-Related Efforts in the Region

**Strategic Objectives:**

- Resilient coastal communities that can adapt to the impacts of hazards and climate change
- Reduce loss of life, property, and disruption from high-impact events
- Safe, efficient and environmentally sound marine transportation

**SECART Members:** Bethney Ward (CSC), Rich Bandy (NWS), Dave Newcomer (NGS), Kyle Ward (OCS), Brad Gane (GA CZM), Geno Olmi (Coordinator)

**Other Work Group Members:** Sarah van der Schalie (OCRM), Susan White and Jack Thigpen (NC SG), Adam Stein (CSC), Geno Olmi

**Summary:** The RCCE Work Group will engage in a number of low-level activities related to improving community resilience, emergency response, and port and marine transportation resilience, and to reducing hazard and climate change impacts in the region. The Work Group will continue to explore opportunities to broaden SECART's resilience portfolio in the future, but the majority of the efforts this year will focus on coastal communities and impacts of coastal hazards.

**Activities:**

- Continue to support and participate in the South Atlantic Alliance issue area technical team on Disaster Resilient Communities (see Partnership/GSAA project).
- Continue testing and evaluating the Wave Run-Up model in North Carolina and in the northeast in collaboration with the USGS and NART; report and share results with the region and other stakeholders.
- Assemble cross Line-Office team and resources to begin planning for development of a NOAA emergency response plan for the Southeast and Caribbean region (development likely to occur in the following fiscal year).
- Continue to track and share information about maritime related activities, including port expansion projects, in the region to better understand how SECART might support NOAA's role.
- Continue to track and share information on the two North Carolina communities receiving NOAA support through EPA's technical assistance program, as these resilience-related projects come to an end; explore next steps and/or transferability to other communities in the region, and how NOAA or SECART might support these.

**Cost/Funding Source:** $2.5K travel to convene emergency response planning team (appropriate SECART members and other LO reps if possible) (GSAA technical team travel captured under Partnership project)

**Partners:**

- GSAA (includes Federal and State agencies)
- USGS (Hillary Stockdon)
- Multiple NOAA LOs

**Milestones/Deliverables:**

- none

# Goal E: Regional Enterprise

## *Regional Enterprise Sub-goal: Engagement*

## Activity E1. Advance Regional Partnerships

### Strategic Objective:

- An engaged and educated public with an improved capacity to make scientifically informed environmental decisions
- Improved partner collaboration to meet the evolving demands of regional stakeholders

### Contacts:


- Geno Olmi (Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov)
- David Brown (David.P.Brown@noaa.gov)
- Alan Leonardi (Alan.Leonardi@noaa.gov)


**Project Summary:** Multi-partner coordination activities are occurring in the region focused on ecosystems, sustainability, and economic development integration. These partnerships provide opportunities for inter-agency and state-federal collaborations. Over the last few years, SECART interacted with and provided various levels of support to several ongoing partnership efforts. Two partnerships receive particular attention from SECART and are identified as separate activities (see Activity E2 and E3). In FY13, SECART will continue to monitor developments of the following groups, and others as appropriate, for enhanced engagement opportunities.

**Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS)** – Partnership between state environmental and natural resource officials from the southeast (NC, SC, GA, FL, AL, MS), the Department of Defense and other federal agencies to promote better collaboration in making resource-use decisions. SERPPAS works to prevent encroachment around military lands, encourage compatible resource-use decisions, and improve coordination among partners.

**Southeast Natural Resource Leaders Group (SENRLG)** – Group of regional Federal executives who lead agencies with natural resource conservation as part of their mission. SENRLG strives to coordinate and collaborate across agencies to improve/enhance federal response to stakeholders.

**National Fish Habitat Initiative/Action Plan (NFHI or NFHAP)** – A diverse partnership focused on restoring fish habitats, the NFHI is being implemented in the Southeast through two groups, the **Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership (SARP)** and the **Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (ACFHP)**. SARP supports and facilitates science-based action to improve and protect aquatic habitats and resources, and focused habitat assessments, restoration actions, monitoring and evaluation of economically and socially significant aquatic habitats. Last year, SECART participated in several Board and Steering Committee meetings and two flow conferences, and monitored implementation of the Southeast Aquatic Habitat Plan (ongoing). ACFHP is a coast wide collaborative effort developed under NFHAP. Their mission is to accelerate the conservation, protection, restoration, and enhancement of habitat for native Atlantic coastal, estuarine-dependent, and diadromous fishes. ACFHP is composed of fish habitat resource managers, scientists, and communications professionals from 30 different state, federal, tribal and non-governmental agencies.

**Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA)** – One of 11 Regional Associations established through IOOS, SECOORA is responsible for coordinating coastal and ocean observing activities in the Southeast and facilitating dialogue among stakeholders. The Regional Association is guided by user groups in the region and helps ensure that data providers meet those needs. SECART is an affiliate member of SECOORA. SECART will pursue discussions with the national IOOS office concerning the potential addition of a SECOORA representative to the SECART team.

**Caribbean Regional Association (CaRA) / (Caribbean Coastal Ocean Observing System (CariCOOS)** – One of 11 Regional Associations established through IOOS, CaRA is responsible for coordinating coastal and ocean observing activities in the U.S. Caribbean and facilitating dialogue among stakeholders. The Regional Association is guided by user groups in the region and helps ensure that data providers meet those needs.

**Project Objectives (FY13):**

- Monitor implementation and progress of regional partnerships
- Identify appropriate opportunities for engagement and respond to region-wide needs
- Utilize SECART's collaborative network to enhance the success of the regional partners
- Increase the level of understanding of NOAA products and services in the region
- Advance regional and internal collaboration

**Cost/Funding Source:** Regional coordinator travel listed elsewhere, plus in kind support from other team members.

**Why SECART?** Regional partnerships offer important opportunities for interagency and state-federal collaborative. SECART, representing OneNOAA in the region, is well suited to engage in these partnerships, to convey the mission and capabilities of NOAA in the region, and to glean the key issues and strategies of federal, state, and non-governmental partners.

**Partners:**

- SERPPAS – NC, SC, GA, FL, AL, and MS; NOAA, DoD, US Forest Service, USFWS, EPA, all Armed Services, NRCS, USGS
- SENRLG – NOAA, USFWS, EPA, TVA, DOT, NRCS, BLM, NPS, US Forest Service, USGS, ACOE, and USAEC
- SARP – 14 southeastern states, NOAA, USFWS, Gulf and Atlantic States Fisheries Commissions, Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Management Councils, all SE Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, NGOs, and other local, private, industry, and business sectors
- ACFHP - composed of fish habitat resource managers, scientists, and communications professionals from 30 different state, federal, tribal and non-governmental agencies
- Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA) and the Caribbean Regional Association for Ocean Observing (CaRA)
- Sea Grant programs in the region (NC, SC, GA, FL, PR)
- South Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Caribbean Fishery Management Council
- The Nature Conservancy and other non-governmental organizations

**Tasks:**

- Monitor partnerships within region and determine which warrant SECART engagement
- SECART members will participate in these partnerships as appropriate and look to identify opportunities for engagement, if beneficial to NOAA's mission in the region

## Activity E2. Support the NOAA in the Caribbean Collaborative

**Strategic Objectives:**

- Integrated services meeting the evolving demands of regional stakeholders

**Contact:**

- Alan Leonardi (alan.leonardi@noaa.gov)
- Lee Carrubba (Lisamarie.Carrubba@noaa.gov)
- Jeff Payne (jeff.payne@noaa.gov)

**Project Summary:** NOAA has a broad portfolio of activities in the Caribbean region, both nationally and internationally. Given the extent of locations, mission, and partners throughout the region, communication and coordination can be challenging. NOAA's Southeast and Caribbean Regional Team (SECART) initiated NOAA in the Caribbean (NOAA Carib) with the goal of identifying and responding to local and regional challenges, needs, and opportunities in the Caribbean region through collaboration across NOAA and with non-NOAA partners. NOAA Carib includes NOAA employees and partners currently active in research, management, training, or other efforts in the Caribbean. NOAA Carib's initial focus has been on Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands; however, the initiative seeks to maintain resource exchanges with Florida and, as appropriate and practicable, with partners in the wider Caribbean. For FY2014, NOAA Carib has three main objectives that were decided upon by a Steering Committee composed of NOAA employees and regional partners who voluntarily serve on the committee:

**Objective 1: Support NOAA in the Caribbean Newsletter**

Launched in February 2012 as the first product from the new NOAA in the Caribbean Initiative, the NOAA in the Caribbean Newsletter aims to enhance communication and awareness of NOAA's Caribbean activities both within NOAA and with the Caribbean region's managers, partners and decision makers. This publication, released in winter, spring and fall, is designed to engage and educate about the on-the-ground science, management, data holdings, tools and operations of all Line Offices taking place throughout the Caribbean. The newsletter is currently the only one-NOAA outreach product with a focus on the Caribbean region.

**Objective 2: Support NOAA in the Caribbean Partners' Meeting**

In May 2012, NOAA Carib held its first annual meeting in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, to discuss how to best identify and respond to local and regional challenges in the Caribbean with NOAA and non-NOAA partners, including through the NOAA Caribbean Strategy. For FY14, NOAA Carib will use virtual technology and small hub locations to coordinate with our Caribbean partners, both within and outside of NOAA for our second annual meeting in lieu of a large in-person meeting. A contractor will be used to provide technical and other meeting logistics. Prior to the virtual annual meeting, the contractor will lead a series of pre-meeting activities in the

form of virtual meetings, chats, surveys, or other web-based interactions on a registration-only basis with NOAA and non-NOAA partners who work in the region. The contractor will also provide a written report of the meeting.

### Objective 3: Support NOAA in the Caribbean Student Intern

This project provides support for a NOAA in the Caribbean student intern/coordination position. The position is intended to support the work of the NOAA Carib Steering Committee, including collaboration with the Chair and Vice-Chair, to assist in promoting the goals and objectives of NOAA Carib. The goal is to rotate the position regionally from the US Mainland, USVI, and Puerto Rico; For FY2014, the project will support a student at the University of Puerto Rico - Mayagüez.

**Cost/Funding Source:** $3,000 of SECART resources supports the NOAA Carib student intern. The NOAA in the Caribbean newsletter is being supported by NOAA organizations in the region: NOAA Coastal Services Center ($5,000), NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program ($15,000), NOAA National Centers for Coastal Ocean Sciences (in-kind support), and NOAA's Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory (in-kind support). A contractor, funded using FY2013 resources, is executing the NOAA in the Caribbean Annual Partners Meeting.

**Why SECART?** SECART covers a spatially large and diverse area. Effective coordination and development of projects may best be done at a sub-regional level. Working with NOAA Carib will further SECART's goals in the sub region.

**Partners:** All NOAA line offices participate in NOAA Carib, along with regional partners.

**Key Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Develop and deliver NOAA in the Caribbean Newsletters (Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4)
- Support NOAA Carib student intern position. (Q3)
- Conduct annual NOAA in the Caribbean Partners meeting. (Q2)

**Tasks:**

- Participate on NOAA Carib Executive and Steering Committees (Q1-Q4).
- Maintain supporting/tracking documents for NOAA in the Caribbean Newsletter production. (Q1-Q4)
- Solicit content from NOAA Caribbean audience, NOAA line offices and partners for NOAA in the Caribbean Newsletter. (Q1-Q4)
- Prepare draft (including editing, layout and design, and section 508 compliance tagging) of NOAA in the Caribbean Newsletter. (Q1-Q4)
- Release and distribute NOAA in the Caribbean Newsletter. (Q1, Q2, Q3)
- Recruit, fill, and train NOAA Carib student intern position (Q1)
- Disburse funds to UM/CIMAS for NOAA Carib student intern/coordinator FY2015 support. (Q3)
- Oversee and work with vendor to support NOAA in the Caribbean Partners meeting. (Q1)
- Conduct NOAA in the Caribbean partner meeting. (Q2)
- Oversee contractor efforts to develop, finalize, and distribute NOAA in the Caribbean partner meeting report. (Q2)

## Activity E3. Implement elements of the NOAA Caribbean Strategy

**Strategic Objectives:**

- Integrated services meeting the evolving demands of regional stakeholders.

**Contact:**

- David Brown (David.P.Brown@noaa.gov)
- Alan Leonardi (Alan.Leonardi@noaa.gov)
- Geno Olmi (Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov)

**Project Summary:** In response to a request from the NOAA Ocean and Coastal Council (NOCC), NOAA has developed an agency-wide Caribbean Strategy to better coordinate and integrate the abilities of all NOAA staff and line offices to address regional issues and improve mission effectiveness in the Caribbean region. The Strategy outlines a collaborative approach for addressing key regional needs centered on three strategic goals, each with multiple objectives and initial and long-term actions.
The Strategy has three interconnected goals:

- Improve conservation and management of ocean and coastal ecosystems and resources;
- Strengthened understanding of, and adaptation to, a changing climate;
- Enhanced multi-hazard monitoring, forecasting, and risk management.

SECART and the NOAA in the Caribbean (NOAACarib) collaborative provide a focus for NOAA on implementation of the Strategy and will work with partners in the execution of the Strategy's short-term objectives, as part of a broader regional coordination effort in the Caribbean.

**Project Objective:**

- From within the three goals of the Strategy, identify those short-term objectives whose implementation is high-priority, programmatically and fiscally feasible, and consistent with broader NOAA capacity and capabilities in the Caribbean region.
- In particular, identify one or more priorities from the Climate Goal of the Strategy (due to source of dedicated funds) whose implementation can be supported in FY14. Two activities under consideration, pending further coordination with CIMAS, are:
    - Expansion of the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow (CoCoRaHS) Network to the US Caribbean islands of Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands. CoCoRaHS is a volunteer network of observers that provides daily high density reports of precipitation. The US Caribbean presently has very sparse meteorological observations.
    - Initiate development of a Caribbean Climate Information System (CariCIS) which would:
        - Serve as a vehicle for cross-line office coordination, communication, and engagement in NOAA climate activities in the Caribbean
        - Provide a platform to prioritize existing, or identify new, cross-cutting activities that address the near-term objectives of the NOAA Caribbean Strategy;

- Be a primary point-of-entry to connect current and potential partners to NOAA climate expertise, and a focusing mechanism for domestic (e.g., SECART, Caribbean LCC) and international (e.g., CIMH, CCCCC) network activities and policy priorities (e.g., NOP, GFCS)
- Adopt a scalable framework to respond to varying resourcing levels and opportunities
- Link to, and be informed by, climate information systems in other marine basins

**Cost/Funding Source:** $20,000 (primarily from NCDC) that will be executed by the Cooperative Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Science (CIMAS) at the University of Miami

**Why SECART?** The NOAA Caribbean Strategy provides a framework for advancing NOAA's mission in this area, in collaboration with our partners. As the regional entity for NOAA, it is important that SECART bring focus to the strategy and seek to further its implementation.

**Partners:** All NOAA line offices contributed to the development of the Strategy; many programs have been identified as possible partners in a CariCIS framework, such as NWS/CPC and NWS/SR; NESDIS/NCDC and NESDIS/NODC; OAR/AOML and OAR/CIMAS; NOS/CSC; NMFS/SERO; Sea Grant; CZM managers; and others. SECART will also be working with the Caribbean Landscape Conservation Cooperative and other partners to enhance access to climate information in the region.

**Key Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Initiate implementation of one or more short-term objectives of the Caribbean Strategy, working with CIMAS and other partners (Q3)
- Further NOAA's mission requirements of delivering integrated services in the Caribbean, as informed by the Strategy and in partnership with NOAACarib and others. (Q4)
- Initiate expansion of CoCoRaHS Network into the US Caribbean through provision of rain gauges and training to volunteers. (Q3)

**Tasks:**

- Identify specific Strategy activities to begin implementing in FY14 (Q2)
- Utilize available funds and work with partners to facilitate their application to activity implementation (Q3)
- Continue coordination with NOAACarib and others in the implementation of the Strategy, and leverage opportunities for collaboration where appropriate (Q4).
- Work with the San Juan WFO and other local partners to train and equip volunteers to be CoCoRaHS observers in Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands
- Hold kick-off meeting for development of the CariCIS (Q4)

## Activity E4. Support the NOAA in the Carolinas Collaborative

**Strategic Objectives:**

- Integrated services meeting the evolving demands of regional stakeholders.

**Contact:**

- Aleta Hohn (Aleta.Hohn@noaa.gov)
- Rich Bandy (Richard.Bandy@noaa.gov)
- Geno Olmi (geno.olmi@noaa.gov)

**Project Summary:** NOAA in the Carolinas (NinC) has its origins as a grassroots partnership of NOAA and external partners from North and South Carolina. The mission of NinC is to develop and use a OneNOAA approach to work more efficiently and enhance NOAA products and services to the region. This collaborative's mission is consistent with, and enables, the mission of SECART. Several SECART members serve on the NinC steering committee.

NinC has three main objectives:

- Understand and support the OneNOAA vision and avenues for regional influence.
- Promote communication and integration of NOAA partners (inside and outside) and activities in the region.
- Improve products, services, and public access.

Over the past 10 years, NinC has hosted numerous regional meetings with participants from the two states and beyond, depending on thematic intent. The meetings typically include plenary sessions, and updates on regional and/or national initiatives based on the conference theme. Breakout sessions have been structured primarily to help identify new partnership projects for NinC to help promote, generate support, and build momentum for accomplishing NOAA's mission in the Carolinas region.

In FY13, with no available budget for an in-person meeting, the NinC steering committee focused on coordination with a National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) pilot program in the coastal Carolinas. Coordination with NIDIS is expected to be a continued focus in FY14. NinC will also look to leverage opportunities from the Hydrometeorological Testbed – Southeast Pilot Study (HMT-SEPS) taking place in the Carolinas. Still, due to favorable responses from NOAA employees and its partners in the Carolinas, NinC steering committee members will remain vigilant for options for a potential workshop, theme to be determined.

**Project Objective:**

- Support NinC to ensure better internal and external NOAA communication in the Carolinas subregion, and for the purpose of enhancing collaboration and coordination.
- Resilient coastal communities that can adapt to the impacts of hazards and climate change, and improved water quality to support human health and coastal ecosystem services.

**Cost/Funding Source:** $3,000 for NOAA in the Carolinas coordinator; in kind support.

**Why SECART?** SECART covers a spatially large and diverse area. Effective coordination and development of projects may best be done at a subregional level. Working with NinC, and assisting efforts such as NIDIS and HMT-SEPS, will further SECART's goals in the subregion.

**Partners:** All NOAA line offices participate in NinC, along with Sea Grant, CZM managers, NERRs, NURP, state climatologists, emergency managers, regional universities, and others.

**Key Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Provide funding for NinC coordinator position and leverage additional funds from region (Q3).
- Further goals of NIDIS in the coastal Carolinas. (Q4)

**Tasks:**

- Participate on NinC Executive and Steering Committees (Q1-Q4).
- Support NinC coordinator and, where possible, leverage funding within the region to provide support (Q3).
- Continue coordination with HMT-SEPS and leverage opportunities for collaboration where appropriate (Q4).

## Activity E5. Support the Governors' South Atlantic Alliance

**Strategic Objectives:**

- Integrated services meeting the evolving demands of regional stakeholders.

**Contact:**

- Virginia Fay (Virginia.Fay@noaa.gov)
- Brad Gane (brad.gane@dnr.state.ga.us)
- Geno Olmi (geno.olmi@noaa.gov)

**Project Summary:** The GSAA is the regional ocean partnership among the states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. Its mission is to significantly increase regional collaboration among these South Atlantic states and with federal agency partners and other stakeholders, and to sustain and enhance the environmental, natural resource, economic, public safety, social, and national defense missions of the respective states and the South Atlantic region as a whole. NOAA is one of three federal co-chairs. NOAA can help advance collaboration in direct response to coastal and ocean issues identified by the GSAA. NOAA can also explore innovative mechanisms for ecosystem management, integrate coastal and marine spatial planning, integrate coastal and ocean observations, and develop decision-support systems based on policy and science, while emphasizing local, state and federal collaboration.

SECART will continue its role assisting coordination across NOAA with the GSAA and its four Issue Area Technical Teams (Disaster-Resilient Communities, Healthy Ecosystems, Working Waterfronts, and Clean Coastal and Ocean Waters) which closely align to NOAA priorities. In addition, SECART will work with the GSAA and the Navy to support implementation of marine spatial planning and the Southeast Regional Planning Body.

The GSAA has also requested NOAA support for enhancing the GSAA web site and for enhancing the GSAA data portal. While SECART's FY14 budget does not include (initially) monetary support for these activities, SECART will provide in-kind support as follows:

- The enhanced web design will improve communication among GSAA members and partners, including NOAA, and will further SECART's ability to identify clear needs and next steps to effectively focus NOAA resources to assist the GSAA. SECART will provide review and guidance from a federal partner perspective (and possibly funds, if they become available);
- SECART will work with SECOORA and GSAA to incorporate ecosystem and working waterfront information generated from Technical Team Implementation Plan work products into the GSAA regional data portal to augment data layers identifying ecosystem indicators and critical infrastructure along the coast and SECART's Data Explorer.

**Project Objectives:**

- Increase the level of understanding of NOAA products and services in the region to GSAA members
- Respond to region-wide needs, including coastal and marine spatial planning
- Advance regional and internal collaboration
- Enhance the success of goals and objectives of the GSAA, through participation on technical teams and support of GSAA activities (including but not limited to web site and data portal enhancements)
- Assist the Navy as needed to convene the Southeast Regional Planning Body and further marine planning

**Cost/Funding Source:** $3,000 to assist NOAA staff travel to GSAA technical team and full meetings as needed; in-kind support of SECART members' time to participate.

**Why SECART?** There is close alignment between SECART and the GSAA priorities. Also, GSAA's successful movement into marine planning is dependent on NOAA resources and assistance.

**Partners:** Include States of NC, SC, GA, and FL; EPA USGS, USACE, DoD/Services, academia, SECOORA, The Nature Conservancy.

**Key Milestones/Deliverables:**

- NOAA participation in GSAA full and technical team meetings
- NOAA assistance in identification and transfer of data layers for data portal

## Activity E6. Support Landscape Conservation Cooperatives

**Strategic Objectives:**

- Integrated services meeting the evolving demands of regional stakeholders.
- Improved understanding of ecosystems to inform resource management decisions

**Contact:**

- David Brown (David.P.Brown@noaa.gov)
- Ellen Mecray (Ellen.L.Mecray@noaa.gov)
- Geno Olmi (geno.olmi@noaa.gov)
- Todd Davison (todd.davison@noaa.gov)
- Lisamarie Carrubba (lisamarie.carrubba@noaa.gov)

**Project Summary:**
The Department of Interior launched the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) to better integrate science and management to address climate change and other landscape scale issues. By building a network that is holistic, collaborative, adaptive, and grounded in science, LCCs are working to ensure the sustainability of our economy, land, water, wildlife, and cultural resources.

The 22 LCCs collectively form a network of resource managers and scientists who share a common need for scientific information and interest in conservation. Each LCC brings together federal, state, and local governments along with Tribes and First Nations, non-governmental organizations, universities, and interested public and private organizations. Our partners work collaboratively to identify best practices, connect efforts, identify science gaps, and avoid duplication through conservation planning and design.

The mission of the LCC network is to:
- Develop and provide integrated science-based information about the implications of climate change and other stressors for the sustainability of natural and cultural resources;
- Develop shared, landscape-level, conservation objectives and inform conservation strategies that are based on a shared scientific understanding about the landscape, including the implications of current and future environmental stressors;
- Facilitate the exchange of applied science in the implementation of conservation strategies and products developed by the Cooperative or their partners;
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of LCC conservation strategies in meeting shared objectives;
- Develop appropriate linkages that connect LCCs to ensure an effective network.

NOAA has a designated representative on most of the 22 LCC Steering Committees, similar to other LCC partners. The NOAA representatives were designated (or took the initiative to become involved when the LCCs were established) and represent a variety of positions and line offices within the Agency. NOAA's LCC Steering Committee members work to advance the work of NOAA and the LCC network. Three LCCs overlap with the SECART geography. SECART members serve on steering committees for each of the three LCCs – South Atlantic, Florida Peninsula, and Caribbean.

**Project Objective:**
- Represent NOAA in advancing the goals of the LCC.

**Cost/Funding Source:** In kind support; possible travel funds as needed.

**Why SECART?** As cross-line office teams that are familiar with regional issues and networks, Regional Collaboration Teams help connect NOAA LCC representatives to NOAA expertise, programs, and partners in the region. Close communication between the NOAA LCC

representatives and the NOAA Regional Collaboration Teams will strengthen support for LCCs and foster more strategic links between NOAA's mission and the LCCs. Three LCCs overlap with the SECART geography.

**Partners:** Each LCC brings together federal, state, and local governments along with Tribes and First Nations, non-governmental organizations, universities, and interested public and private organizations.

**Key Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Represent NOAA on the Steering Committees of the South Atlantic, Florida Peninsula, and Caribbean LCC (Q1-4).

**Tasks:**

- Represent NOAA on the Steering Committees of the South Atlantic, Florida Peninsula, and Caribbean LCC (Q1-4), including participation in steering team calls and annual face-to-face meetings.
- Maintain two-way communication with the NOAA LCC coordinator regarding progress and developments within the LCCs
- Work with relevant NOAA programs, offices, and Regional Collaboration Teams to coordinate and effectively communicate to the LCC, NOAA's mission interests in landscape/seascape conservation in a changing climate, including our landscape scale conservation science needs.
- Work with relevant NOAA programs, offices, and Regional Collaboration Teams to bring NOAA capabilities to the LCC to assist in the attainment of LCC goals and objectives, including identifying appropriate NOAA staff for relevant LCC subcommittees or work teams.
- Effectively communicate LCC activities, projects, and opportunities to relevant NOAA programs, offices, and the Regional Collaboration Teams.
- Identify cross-LCC activities (regional or national) that will be of benefit/relevance to NOAA climate science, service, and coastal and marine conservation programs and develop appropriate links across NOAA programs and administrative units to support such LCC efforts

# *Regional Enterprise Sub-goal: Inreach, Outreach, Communications*

## Activity E7. Enhance Regional Outreach and Communications

**Strategic Objectives:**

- An engaged and educated public with an improved capacity to make scientifically informed environmental decisions
- Integrated services meeting the evolving demands of regional stakeholders

**Contact:**

- Geno Olmi (Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov)
- David Brown (David.P.Brown@noaa.gov)
- Outreach & Communications Team (Fangman, Cline, Leonardi, Ward)

**Project Summary:** SECART will conduct a number of communications and outreach activities targeted at facilitating collaboration among NOAA programs, partners, and stakeholders; promote awareness and understanding of NOAA's varying capabilities, services and programmatic priorities as they relate to regional and national priorities; and gather feedback to improve products and services. SECART will continue to build, maintain or enhance "One-NOAA in the region" outreach/inreach materials and tools previously initiated, such as regional factsheets, presentations, and the kiosk. In FY14, additional focus will be placed on enhancing the SECART website as a tool and resource for increased in-reach, outreach, and communications. SECART outreach and communications activities will require the support, input and feedback of the full SECART team.

**Project Objectives:**

- Increase effectiveness of SECART In-reach, Outreach and Communications delivery through on-going resource evaluation
- Engage with regional staff, partners, and stakeholders to strengthen collaborative ties and build awareness in the region through targeted outreach and communications
- Offer a suite of In-reach, Outreach and Communications products for SECART and others to use as needed that represent One-NOAA in the region

**Cost/Funding Source:** $500 for shipping kiosk and other supplies. In kind support from SECART members; coordinator travel for outreach captured under other regional enterprise categories.

**Why SECART?** NOAA's regional teams are a mechanism for effectively communicating the agency's mission and priorities to internal and external audiences in a locally-relevant manner. To contribute to this goal, SECART engages in many forms of communication, including facilitation of messages through appropriate media, making formal presentations, and personal interactions. The activities outlined for SECART in FY14 seek to maintain and increase use of existing in-reach, outreach and communications products.

**Partners:** All line offices and SECART work groups; the NOAA Coastal Services Center and National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science for continued technical support.

**Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Develop "fact sheet" about SECART's FY14 activities (Q1)
- Enhance SECART web site (Q1 – Q4)
- Update One-NOAA content for kiosk and track usage (Q1 – Q4)
- Update "NOAA in region" fact sheet (Q3)
- Provide 3-4 "SECART Success Stories" to PPI and also post to web site (Q1-Q4)
- Provide bi-monthly "accomplishments" to PPI for presentation to Executive Oversight Group

**Tasks:**

- Create "SECART FY14" fact sheet (Q1)
- Update "NOAA in the SE &Carb region" fact sheet (Q3)
- Solicit input for 3-4 success stories and deliver to PPI and post on web site (Q1-Q4)
- Maintain content for SECART web site and enhance/update as needed (Q1 – Q4)
- Monitor and assist SECART working groups with outreach support as needed (Q1 – Q4)
- Make One-NOAA outreach materials available for use by staff in the region (Q1 – Q4)
- Identify and utilize various forums to display One-NOAA outreach materials to partners and stakeholders (Q1 – Q4)
- Maintain content for SECART kiosk and enhance/update content and interface as needed; make kiosk available to NOAA staff and partners in the region (Q1-4)

# *Regional Enterprise Sub-goal: Integrated Services*

## Activity E8. Support the Regional Team

**Strategic Objective:**

- Improve integrated services and enhanced collaboration to meet the evolving demands of regional stakeholders

**Contacts:**

- Geno Olmi (Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov)
- David Brown (David.P.Brown@noaa.gov)
- Alan Leonardi (Alan.Leonardi@noaa.gov)

**Project Summary:** For regional collaboration teams to be effective, they must have regular and effective coordination and communication. SECART maintains monthly conference calls and semi-annual face-to-face or virtual meetings as the key opportunities to exchange information and discuss SECART's mission, strategy, and effectiveness. SECART continues to refine the purpose and format of meetings to be more productive and efficient.

During FY14, SECART will strive to hold two face-to-face meetings, though travel restrictions and cost may necessitate that one of the meetings be a virtual meeting (i.e., via web cam and file sharing). The winter meeting will occur in January or February and be held in Miami, FL. The meeting will focus on status of SECART activities and learning about NOAA and partner activities in the south Florida area. The summer meeting (tentatively planned for Charleston or Asheville) will focus on progress of SECART projects, team business, and identifying FY15 priorities and activities. In addition to monthly calls and meetings, team members communicate frequently via phone and email.

Development and execution of the team's annual IOP is a major task within this activity. While much of the execution is contained in other IOP Activities, the planning for and development of the annual IOP is captured here. As part of this process, SECART will continually evaluate regional priorities of stakeholders. SECART work groups, established in FY11in relation to the

NOAA Strategic Plan goals, have helped improve team operations. Work groups require coordination and oversight by the SECART team lead and coordinator.

**Cost/Funding Source:** $8,000 to support SECART workshop(s), including meeting space rental (if needed) and support of team member travel to the meetings (if their LO is unable to cover travel costs). Support from members' LOs for travel support. $9000 for Regional Coordinator travel in support of team operations, ReCo support and Outreach and Communications is captured here; in-kind support provided in team member time and possible financial contributions.

**Project Objectives:**

- Maintain and improve communication and coordination of the regional team
- Manage and improve team operations
- Maintain and enhance topical work groups
- Effectively execute the FY14 Integrated Operating Plan
- Make progress toward the Engagement Enterprise Objective: *Integrated Services Meeting the Evolving Demands of Regional Stakeholders*
- Begin development of the FY15 Integrated Operating Plan

**Why SECART?** This is an important activity for the team to function effectively.

**Partners:** All team members

**Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Final FY14 Integrated Operating Plan with spend plan (Q1)
- Draft FY15 Integrated Operating Plan with spend plan (Q4)
- Winter SECART meeting (Q2)
- Summer SECART meeting (Q4)

**Tasks:**

- Convene monthly team calls and distribute notes (Q1 – Q4)
- Complete final FY14 IOP and spend plan (Q1)
- Establish winter meeting planning team (Q1)
- Organize and convene winter meeting (Q1 – Q2)
- Distribute winter meeting notes (Q2)
- Assist with success of all work groups (Q1 – Q4)
- Establish summer meeting planning team (Q2)
- Organize and convene summer meeting (Q3 – Q4)
- Distribute summer meeting notes (Q4)
- Review stakeholder needs from previous assessments and new initiatives (Q2 – Q4)
- Draft FY15 IOP (Q4)

## Activity E9. Support Regional Collaboration and NOAA Leadership

**Strategic Objective:**

- Improve integrated services and enhanced collaboration to meet the evolving demands of regional stakeholders

**Contact:**

- Geno Olmi (Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov)
- David Brown (David.P.Brown@noaa.gov)
- Alan Leonardi (Alan.Leonardi@noaa.gov)

**Project Summary:** Regional collaboration is a network of networks and it is imperative to maintain the networks at all levels: within the region, but also nationally. Regional collaboration teams report to the Executive Oversight Group (EOG), which includes the deputy assistant administrators of each line office, and is led by the Office of Program Planning and Integration (PPI), the NOAA Policy Office, and External Affairs. SECART will work closely with PPI to advance regional collaboration at all levels.

In addition, SECART is called upon to provide information about and from stakeholders and NOAA entities in the region, and also to serve as ambassadors for the agency and department. Examples include SECART being asked to co-lead development of a NOAA Caribbean Strategy, to advance National Ocean Policy objectives such as marine spatial planning, and assist with the execution of the NOAA Habitat Blueprint and the Sentinel Sites Program. Opportunities to engage stakeholders often require "on the ground" logistical planning and coordination, often with limited advance notification. SECART will respond to information and service requests from NOAA and the Department of Commerce, as needed.

To achieve this goal, SECART will work closely with NOAA's PPI, the EOG, NOAA line offices, and the other regional collaboration teams to strengthen the capacity and value of the overall regional collaboration effort – promoting and supporting the One-NOAA approach within each region and across the regions. SECART will engage NOAA staff within the region to strengthen the communication and coordination of NOAA's activities in the region.

**Project Objectives:**

- Strengthen "One-NOAA" approach within the region
- Serve to enhance two-way communication between NOAA and regional partners and stakeholders
- Improve inter-regional coordination and identify any regional emerging issues that SECART can help address
- Support the EOG and PPI in oversight responsibilities, and influence strategic direction setting, for NOAA regional collaboration
- Serve NOAA and the Department of Commerce as needed for requests for information and services from the region
- Represent NOAA and the Department of Commerce in the region
- Continue to socialize the NOAA Caribbean Strategy, as requested by the NOAA Ocean and Coastal Council, and work toward shared implementation

**Cost/Funding Source:** $9000 for Regional Coordinator travel in support of team operations (including SECART meetings), Outreach and Communications (including travel to meet with partners and stakeholders), ReCo support (including Annual ReCo workshop, Regional Coordinator meeting, and attending other RCT meetings); in kind support of team members; time of Coordinator and Team Lead.

**Why SECART?** This is an inherent and necessary project for NOAA's regional collaboration effort to be successful.

**Partners:** NOAA's PPI, EOG, line offices, and other regional collaboration teams; and NGSP stakeholders

**Milestones/Deliverables:**

- Regional Coordinator meeting (Q1)
- National Regional Collaboration Workshop (Q3)
- Regional Landscape Analysis document revised (Q1)
- Bi-monthly accomplishments to PPI for presentation to EOG (Q1-4)

**Tasks:**

- Participate in semi-monthly Regional Coordinator calls (Q1 – Q4)
- Participate in monthly Regional Team Lead calls (Q1 – Q4)
- Support PPI as needed to further regional collaboration (Q1 – Q4)
- Participate in Strategic Execution and Evaluation process as appropriate to advocate for addressing regional priorities (Q1 – Q4)
- Participate in the Regional Coordination Meetings in Silver Spring and DC (Q1)
- Participate in the planning and execution of the Annual Regional Collaboration Workshop (Q1 – Q3)
- Coordinate HQ visits and briefings, as requested (Q1 – Q4)
- Inform HQ of issues, concerns and events important to the region (Q1 – Q4)
- Lead completion of the NOAA Caribbean Strategy and advocate for its implementation

# III. Appendices

## Appendix 1. Southeast and Caribbean Regional Collaboration Team Membership

(Nov 2014)

| Name | Affiliation | Location | E-mail |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bandy, Rich | NWS | Newport, NC | Richard.Bandy@noaa.gov |
| Brown, Dave | NESDIS | Ft. Worth, TX | David.P.Brown@noaa.gov |
| Causey, Billy | NOS | Key West, FL | Billy.Causey@noaa.gov |
| Cross, Scott | NESDIS | Charleston, SC | Scott.Cross@noaa.gov |
| Fangman, Sarah | NOS | Savannah, GA | Sarah.fangman@noaa.gov |
| Fay, Ginny | NMFS | St. Petersburg, FL | Virginia.Fay@noaa.gov |
| Gane, Brad | GADNR | Brunswick, GA | Brad.Gane@dnr.state.ga.us |
| Garcia, Roberto | NWS | San Juan, PR | Roberto.Garcia@noaa.gov |
| Hohn, Aleta | NMFS | Beaufort, NC | Aleta.Hohn@noaa.gov |
| Hopkinson, Chuck | GA Sea Grant | Athens, GA | chopkins@uga.edu |
| Kearns, Ed | NESDIS | Asheville, NC | Ed.Kearns@noaa.gov |
| Leonardi, Alan | OAR | Miami, FL | Alan.Leonardi@noaa.gov |
| Mecray, Ellen | NESDIS | Bohema, NY | Ellen.Mecray@noaa.gov |
| Newcomer, Dave | NOS | Tallahassee, FL | David.Newcomer@noaa.gov |
| Olmi, Geno | NOS | Charleston, SC | Geno.Olmi@noaa.gov |
| Ortner, Peter | CMAS/U.Miami | Miami, FL | portner@rsmas.miami.edu |
| Payne, Jeff | NOS | Charleston, SC | Jeff.Payne@noaa.gov |
| Taylor, Chris | NOS | Beaufort, NC | Chris.taylor@noaa.gov |
| Ward, Bethney | NOS | Charleston, SC | Bethney.Ward@noaa.gov |
| Ward, Kyle | NOS | Charleston, SC | Kyle.Ward@noaa.gov |

# Appendix 2. SECART FY2014 Spend Plan

| FY14 SECART Spend Plan | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Activity** | **SECART Funds** | **Supplementary funding** |
| **A. Goal: Climate Adaptation and Mitigation** | | |
| A1. Supporting SE and Caribbean Climate Community of Practice | 5,000 | |
| | | |
| **B. Goal: Weather Ready Nation** | | |
| B1. Advise and support the NWS Tampa Weather Ready Nation pilot project on integrated environmental services | 1,000 | |
| B2. Enhance Decision Support for Coastal Hazards/Tropical Cyclones | 0 | |
| B3. Improving Inundation Forecasts through Post-Storm Assessments | 0 | 8,000 |
| B4. Extend Water Level Forecasts into Tidal/Surge Zones of Rivers | 1,000 | |
| B5. Provide operational hydrologic model for WFO San Juan | 0 | |
| B6. Improving access to hydrometeorological information | 1,000 | |
| | | |
| **C. Goal: Healthy Oceans** | | |
| C1. Regional Priorities for NOAA Habitat Blueprint | 3,000 | |
| C2. North Carolina Sentinel Site Cooperative | 0 | FY13 funds applied to FY14 work |
| | | |
| **D. Goal: Resilient Coastal Communities and Economies** | | |
| A1. Supporting SE and Caribbean Climate Community of Practice (joint project with Climate) | | |
| D2. Track, support and advance resilience-related efforts in the region | 2500 | |
| | | |
| **E. Regional Enterprise** | | |
| *Engagement* | | |
| E1. Advance Regional Partnerships | 0 | |
| E2. Support NOAA in the Caribbean Collaborative | 9,000 | 5,000 |
| E3. Implement elements of the NOAA Caribbean Strategy | | 20,000 |
| E4. Support NOAA in the Carolinas Collaborative | 3,000 | |
| E5. Support the Governors' South Atlantic Alliance | 3,000 | |
| E6. Support Landscape Conservation Cooperatives | 0 | |
| | | |
| *Inreach, Outreach and Communications* | | |
| E7. Enhance Regional Outreach and Communications | 0 | |
| *Integrated Services* | | |
| E8. Support the Regional Team | 20,000 | |
| E9. Support Regional Collaboration & Leadership | 1,500 | |
| TOTAL | **50,000** | **33,000** |